

Cancel claims 9 - 16 and rewrite them as follows:

3
-- 21. A method of operating a system for generating electrical power from a source of input energy occurring at variable rates including first rates at which the input energy can be safely captured at high energy conversion efficiencies and second rates in excess of the first rates and at which capture of the input energy at the high energy conversion efficiencies is likely to cause mechanical damage to the system, the method comprising:

collecting the input energy when present at said first rates and driving an electrical generator with said collected energy for generating and transferring electrical energy, to an electrical load, at a high input energy conversion efficiency corresponding to a first mechanical impedance presented to the power collecting mechanism and,

in response to the input energy arriving at said second rates, varying the impedance of said load for increasing the output current from the generator for reducing the input energy conversion efficiently of the generator for increasing the mechanical impedance of the generator, and including the steps of:

monitoring the rate of arrival of said input energy, and varying said load impedance by a variable amount dependent upon the monitored rate of arrival of said input energy.

22. A method according to claim 21 wherein said monitoring is performed by sensing the speed of an energy conveying link of the system.

23. A method of operating a system for generating electrical power from a source of input energy arriving at variable rates comprising:

capturing the input energy with a mechanism for converting the input energy to mechanical energy for driving an electrical generator for generating and transferring electrical energy to an electrical load, and,

when the input energy exceeds a preselected rate, varying the impedance of the load for increasing the current to the load for decreasing the energy conversion efficiency of the generator for increasing the mechanical impedance of the generator presented to the energy capturing mechanism, and including the steps of:

3 monitoring the rate of arrival of said input energy, and varying said load impedance by a variable amount dependent upon the monitored rate of arrival of said input energy.

24. A method according to claim 23 wherein said monitoring is performed by sensing the speed of an energy conveying link of the system.

25. A method according to claim 23 including a moving member for transferring energy collected by said collecting mechanism to said electrical generator, and wherein said monitoring is performed by sensing the amount of movement of said moving member.

26. A method according to claim 25 including varying said load impedance by a variable amount dependent upon the sensed amount of movement of said moving member. --

¶Cancel claims 17 - 20 and add the following claims: §

27. A method of operating a system for generating electrical power from a source of variable input energy comprising the steps of:

a. collecting said input energy for causing movements of an energy transferring link for driving an electrical generator for generating and transferring electrical energy to an electrical load;

b. measuring the amount of movement of said link and, when said measured amount exceeds a predetermined amount of movement of said link above which damage to the system is likely to occur, decreasing the electrical impedance of said load by a variable amount dependent upon said measured

amount of movement for decreasing said movement to less than said predetermined value for protecting the system against damage while continuing to generate electrical power.

28. A method according to claim 27 wherein the variable amount of decrease of said load impedance is related to the extent said measured amount exceeds said predetermined amount.

29. A method according to claim 27 wherein the rate of change of said amount of movement is measured, and the variable amount of decrease of said load impedance is directly related to said measured rate.

30. A method according to claim 27 wherein said source of mechanical energy is surface waves on a body of water, said waves occurring at a first frequency; the method comprising monitoring the amount of movement of said drive link at a sampling rate in excess of said first frequency, and varying the input impedance of said electrical load multiple times in response to varying amplitudes of individual surface waves.

31. A method according to claim 27 including, after a first decrease of the impedance of said load, repeatedly re-monitoring the amount of movement of said drive link and repeatedly further decreasing said load impedance as necessary for reducing the drive link movement to below said predetermined amount of movement. --